



NEWS RELEASE

Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: John Ratcliffe
First Assistant US Attorney
(972)509-1201

THREE PORT ARTHUR RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH FIREARM CHARGES

(Beaumont, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced that 24-year-old **LEON DEMOND DAVIS**, 43-year-old **DANNAH SUE SMITH-COMEAUX**, and 27 year old **JOHN RONALD MAYON**, all of Port Arthur, were each indicted yesterday in the Eastern District of Texas for possessing a firearm after being previously convicted of felony offenses.

U.S. Attorney Orwig credited the vigilance of the Port Arthur Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with aggressively pursuing and bring to justice federal firearm offenders in the city of Port Arthur, "Our law enforcement agencies are working diligently to make the streets of Port Arthur safer. Residents who are prohibited from possessing firearms will be apprehended and prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

If convicted, each of these defendants faces up to 10 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. It is important to note that an indictment is merely a charge and should not be considered as evidence of either guilt or innocence.

These cases are being prosecuted under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' Violent Crime Impact Teams (VCIT) initiative and Operation Gang Stop. PSN is a comprehensive, strategic approach to gun law enforcement that targets gun crime and violent offenders in an effort to make our communities safer. Combined with the VCIT, PSN seeks to decrease both the number of violent crimes, as well as, the number of firearms crimes through the removal of violent offenders from our communities. Operation Gang Stop, which is a law enforcement task force encompassing all federal, state and local law enforcement serving the Port Arthur area, was formed in December, 2005, to combat the growing gang and violent crime problems in the city of Port Arthur, Texas. Assistant United States Attorney Michelle S. Englade is prosecuting these cases.

Additionally, as part of these initiatives, an additional 16 Port Arthur residents have been indicted and are being prosecuted federally for firearm offenses since August, 2005.

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